

Preliminary Amendment

Serial No.: Unknown (Parent Serial No. 09/407,818)

Filed: Herewith (Parent: September 28, 1999)

Title: PRIMERS FOR USE IN DETECTING BETA-LACTAMASES

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In the Claims

Please cancel claims 1-11, 18-38, and 50, without prejudice. Please amend claims 12-17, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, and 49. The amended claims are provided below in clean form. Per 37 C.F.R. §1.121, the amended claims are also shown in Appendix A with notations to indicated changes made.

12. **(Once Amended)** A primer selected from the group of:

5' - CGT CGC TCA CCA TAT CTC CC - 3' (SEQ ID NO:34);

5' - CCT CTC GTG CTT TAG ACC CG - 3' (SEQ ID NO:35); and complements thereof.

13. **(Once Amended)** A primer selected from the group of:

5' - CGC TGG GAA ACC TAT TCG G - 3' (SEQ ID NO:36);

5' - CTG CCA TCC AGT TTC TTC GGG - 3' (SEQ ID NO:37); and complements thereof.

14. **(Once Amended)** A primer selected from the group of:

5' - GGT GGC ATT GAC AAA TTC TGG - 3' (SEQ ID NO:38);

5' - CCC ACC ATG CGA CAC CAG - 3' (SEQ ID NO:39); and complements thereof.

15. **(Once Amended)** A primer selected from the group of:

5' - TGT GCA ACG CAA ATG GCA C - 3' (SEQ ID NO:40);

5' - CGA CCC CAA GTT TCC TGT AAG TG - 3' (SEQ ID NO:41); and complements thereof.

16. **(Once Amended)** A primer selected from the group of:

5' - AGG CAC GAT AGT TGT GGC AGA C - 3' (SEQ ID NO:42);

5' - CAC TCA ACC CAT CCT ACC CAC C - 3' (SEQ ID NO:43); and complements thereof.

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17. (Once Amended) A method for identifying a beta-lactamase in a clinical sample, the method comprising:

providing a pair of oligonucleotide primers specific for nucleic acid characteristic of the OXA family of beta-lactamase enzymes, wherein one primer of the pair is complementary to at least a portion of the beta-lactamase nucleic acid in the sense strand and the other primer of each pair is complementary to at least a portion of the beta-lactamase nucleic acid in the antisense strand;

annealing the primers to the beta-lactamase nucleic acid;

simultaneously extending the annealed primers from a 3' terminus of each primer to synthesize an extension product that is complementary to the nucleic acid strands annealed to each primer wherein each extension product after separation from the beta-lactamase nucleic acid serves as a template for the synthesis of an extension product for the other primer of each pair;

separating the amplified products; and

analyzing the separated amplified products for a region characteristic of the

beta-lactamase.

40. (Once Amended) The method of claim 39 wherein the primers are selected from the group of:

5' - CGT CGC TCA CCA TAT CTC CC - 3' (SEQ ID NO:34);

5' - CCT CTC GTG CTT TAG ACC CG - 3' (SEQ ID NO:35); and complements thereof.

42. (Once Amended) The method of claim 41 wherein the primers are selected from the group of:

5' - CGC TGG GAA ACC TAT TCG G - 3' (SEQ ID NO:36);

5' - CTG CCA TCC AGT TTC TTC GGG - 3' (SEQ ID NO:37); and complements

thereof.

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44. (Once Amended) The method of claim 43 wherein the primers are selected from the group of:

5' - GGT GGC ATT GAC AAA TTC TGG - 3' (SEQ ID NO:38);

5' - CCC ACC ATG CGA CAC CAG - 3' (SEQ ID NO:39); and complements thereof.

46. (Once Amended) The method of claim 45 wherein the primers are selected from the group of:

5' - TGT GCA ACG CAA ATG GCA C - 3' (SEQ ID NO:40);

5' - CGA CCC CAA GTT TCC TGT AAG TG - 3' (SEQ ID NO:41); and complements

thereof.

48. (Once Amended) The method of claim 47 wherein the primers are selected from the group of:

5' - AGG CAC GAT AGT TGT GGC AGA C - 3' (SEQ ID NO:42);

5' - CAC TCA ACC CAT CCT ACC CAC C - 3' (SEQ ID NO:43); and complements

thereof.

49. (Once Amended) A diagnostic kit for detecting an OXA family beta-lactamase which comprises packaging, containing, separately packaged:

(a) at least one primer pair capable of hybridizing to beta-lactamase nucleic acid of interest;

(b) a positive and negative control; and

(c) a protocol for identification of the beta-lactamase nucleic acid of interest.